

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOGADI 00813 100844Z

17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 BIB-01

MC-02 EB-07 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 ACDA-05 /068 W

----- 112943

P 100813Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2939

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0813

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, UR, US, SO

SUBJECT: SECSTATE FOR INFORMATION PROTESTS SOVIET BASE ALLEGATIONS

1. SECSTATE FOR INFORMATION DR. ABDULAHI MOHAMED HASSAN SUMMONED ME TO MINISTRY OF INFORMATION JUNE 9 TO DISCUSS US DEFENSE DEPARTMENT ALLEGATIONS OF SOVIET BASE AT BERBERA. HE SAID THAT CHARGES WERE FALSE BUT THAT VOA AND BBC HAD NOW DISSEMINATED THIS FALSE PROPAGANDA TO WORLD AT LARGE, NOTWITHSTANDING GSDR DENIALS.

2. HE THEN PROCEEDED TO ASK ME WHAT I KNEW OF DEFENSE DEPARTMENT CHARGES AND WHETHER I HAD ANY INFORMATION TO SUPPORT SUCH STATEMENTS.

3. I SAID I HAD NOT RPT NOT HEARD RECENT VOA OR BBC BROADCASTS BUT I KNEW WHAT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE HAD SAID PREVIOUSLY ON SUBJECT.

US HAD INFORMATION THAT MISSILE STORAGE FACILITY NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION BY SOVIETS IN OR NEAR BERBERA AND THIS WAS MATTER OF CONCERN.

4. I ALSO SAID IT WAS MY RECOLLECTION THAT IN MOST RECENT STATEMENTS, US OFFICIALS HAD REFERRED TO QTE FACILITIES UNQTE RATHER THAN BASES. DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BASE AND FACILITY WAS SOMETIMES DIFFICULT TO JUDGE BUT IN ANY CASE, SOVIET UNION DID HAVE SPECIAL FACILITIES IN BERBERA.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOGADI 00813 100844Z

5. DR. ABDULAHI THEN QUIZZED ME ON MY KNOWLEDGE OF FACILITIES AT

BERBERA. AS SENIOR US DIPLOMAT IN SOMALIA, I WAS IN POSITION TO INTERPRET SITUATION HERE AND TO PASS MY CONCLUSIONS TO WASHINGTON. SOMALIA WAS SMALL COUNTRY WHERE INFORMATION EASY TO OBTAIN. WHAT WAS MY PERSONAL VIEW ABOUT SOVIET BASES IN BERBERA.

6. I SAID I HAD NEVER BEEN TO BERBERA -- THAT GSDR KEPT ME ON TIGHT LEASH CONFINED TO MOGADISCIO PERIMETER AND HAD REFUSED GRANT ME PERMISSION TO TRAVEL EVEN TO BAIDOA. SO I DIDN'T KNOW BERBERA.

7. ABDULAH I THEN PRESSED ME ON SOURCE OF DEPT. OF DEFENSE INFO. SAID I COULD NOT RPT NOT COMMENT ON THIS ASPECT OF US STATEMENTS. MININFO OFFICIAL WHO WAS SITTING IN AS INTERPRETER NOTED THAT RECENT BBC BROADCAST HAD REFERRED TO SATELLITE PHOTOGRAPHS. I SAID THAT US DID NOT RPT NOT COMMENT ON THIS SUBJECT EITHER.

8. WHEN ABDULAH I SAID US STATEMENTS WERE HARMING US/SOMALI RELATIONS, I TOLD HIM THAT IN MY OPINION TIME HAD COME FOR MEDIA TO STOP TALKING ABOUT SOVIET BASES IN SOMBLIA. WHEN HE SUGGESTED THAT STATEMENTS SHOWED US HOSTILITY TO SOMALIA, I DISAGREED AND SKETCHED IN FOR HIM BACKGROUND REGARDING DIEGO GARCIA HEARINGS UNDERWAY IN WASHINGTON, FROM WHICH RECENT COMMENTARY HAD BEEN DRAWN.

9. I ALSO SUGGESTED HE INVITE US JOURNALISTS TO VISIT BERBERA. THERE WERE NUMBER OF OUTSTANDING AMERICAN JOURNALISTS IN NAIROBI AND ADDIS WHO WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY ACCEPT GSDR INVITATION TO TOUR BERBERA. HE DID NOT RPT NOT COMMENT.

10. COMMENT: I SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED THAT ABDULAH I HAD SCHEDULED PRESS CONFERENCE FOR AFTERNOON OF JUNE 9 TO REFUTE SOVIET BASE ALLEGATIONS. AT TIME I SPOKE WITH HIM, I DID NOT RPT NOT KNOW CONFERENCE WAS PLANNED. PRESS CONFERENCE WAS CANCELLED IN ANY CASE SEVERAL HOURS LATER.
HAMRICK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLICIES, FOREIGN RELATIONS, MILITARY BASES, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: woolflhd
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOGADI00813
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750201-0713
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750665/aaaachdw.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 DEC 2003 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECSTATE FOR INFORMATION PROTESTS SOVIET BASE ALLEGATIONS
TAGS: MARR, UR, US, SO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006